



Ding-A-Ling Cobia Tournament

April 28th-30th, 2023

1. All fish must be caught during the specified dates of the Boathouse Oyster Bar Ding-A-Ling cobia tournament, April 28-30, 2023. Entry fee is \$500 per boat.
2. All fish must be weighed in on the calendar day they are caught.
3. Tournament hours and dates are from 12:01 a.m. Friday, April 28, 2023 through 7:00 p.m. Sunday, April 30, 2023.
4. Official Weigh Station and Tournament Headquarters will be Boathouse Oyster Bar Marina in Destin, Florida. Scales will be open from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Friday, 28th through Saturday 29th, and 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Sunday 30th, 2023.
5. The Captain/Anglers Meeting will be at Boathouse Oyster Bar Marina on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 6pm. All boats must register before 8 pm on Thursday, April 27, 2023 to participate in the tournament.
6. The awards and prizes presentation will be at Boathouse Oyster Bar Marina on Sunday, April 30, 2023.
7. Winners will be determined by weight. In case of a tie, the first boat to weigh in will be determined the winner. All Times will be determined by when the fish are weighed not at the time of capture.
8. A polygraph examination will be administered to the Captains of the top three money winning vessels on Monday, May 1st, 2023 between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. Location address provided to Captains. Inability to complete the scheduled polygraph examination timeframe will require travel to the API Polygraph location in Daphne, Alabama. Failure to complete the required polygraph examination will forfeit all monies received.
 - a. If there is any concern or a dispute regarding the eligibility of a fish being weighed in, then a polygraph examination will be required and must be passed in a conclusive manner. Failure to submit to such an examination will result in disqualification of the entrant at the sole discretion of the tournament committee. Upon the passage of a polygraph examination all tournament prize money will be distributed in check form and can either be picked up or mailed.
 - b. Any protest must be presented to Boathouse Oyster Bar within 24 hours of the weigh-in of the fish in question. No protest will be accepted after 7 p.m. on the final day of fishing, which is April 30, 2023. A \$500 (cash only) protest fee must accompany the written and signed protest. In the event the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded. If the protest proves invalid the protest fee will be forfeited.
9. Decisions of the tournament committee are final. Violation of any of the tournament rules will subject the boat to disqualification from the tournament without refund.
10. The division for Lady angler is open to any female and Junior angler must be 14 years of age or younger on the date the fish is being weighed in.
11. All fish must be in acceptable condition. The Boathouse Ding-A-Ling Cobia Tournament Chairman, or any committee member or representative, reserves the right to reject any fish entry because of poor condition, mutilation or being frozen. The condition of the fish will be left up to the scrutiny of the committee. Their decision is final.
12. All fish must be caught on ROD and REEL. Fish caught by bicycle rigs, spears, traps, nets, or any other entangling device will be disqualified.
13. The use of HARPOONS is strictly prohibited.

14. Intentional snagging or foul hooking is prohibited.

15. To promote conservation and preserve the species; The Boathouse Oyster Bar will limit all its participants to weighing in a maximum of one Cobia per person per day, and a maximum of two Cobias per registered vessel per day. NO ILLEGAL ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Any changes in State regulations after the printing of this publication will be covered at the Captain's meeting.

16. THE CULLING OF DEAD FISH IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. And is also a violation of State Law.

17. The Boathouse Oyster Bar Ding-A-Ling Cobia Tournament will have a minimum tournament weight of 45 pounds that dictates a fish's eligibility to place excluding the "Big Ling on a Jig" Division.

a. The largest cobia caught on a jig must provide proof with picture or video capture as soon as the fish is on the deck to confirm eligibility for that division. Eligibility in this division is dependent on the State regulation minimum length of a cobia of 36 inches measured from fork of the tail to mouth.

18. All fish weighed may be subject to random gutting. Failure to comply with a tournament committee member requiring the fish to be gutted will result in the disqualification of the fish in question.

19. The Boathouse Oyster Bar is under obligation and will report any violation of the minimum size lengths and possession limits of all persons and vessels involved.

20. All rules are subject to change at the Captain's meeting.

21. Failed Polygraph Results- Confirmation of failed polygraph results will disqualify ALL CREW MEMBERS AND ANGLERS on board the vessel that has been found to be in violation of the rules of this tournament INDEFINITELY.

22. Tournament Boundaries- Only fish caught within Florida's state water boundaries are eligible for entry in the Boathouse Oyster Bar Ding-A-Ling Cobia Tournament. Florida's state waters extend 9 nautical miles from the shoreline, and the acknowledged Alabama/Florida state boundary is located along the shoreline at (87° 31.100 W).

23. CASH AWARDS: GRAND PRIZE AWARDS: In the event of only one eligible entry the Payout Bracket will be "Winner take all" no matter how much participation within the tournament. In the event of only two eligible entries the payout bracket will be 60/40 no matter how much participation within the tournament. More than three eligible entries, payout brackets will be as followed: 11 boats or more 50/30/20 split, 10 boats or less 60/40 split. CALCUTTA AWARDS: Payout Brackets for each division: Three boats or less: "Winner take all", Four to Ten boats: 60/40 split, Eleven boats or more 50/30/20 split. If any one division only has one entry at the end of the tournament, no matter how much participation is in the division, it will be considered "Winner take all." All monies paid out are minus 10% administration fee.

F.A.D. RULES

a. The use of illegal fish aggregating devices (hereinafter called "FADs") is strictly prohibited during the Boathouse Oyster Bar Ding-A-Ling cobia tournament. For tournament purposes, FADs will be defined as any permanent or non-permanent structure or device that is deployed into the Gulf of Mexico for the purpose of attracting fish to its location that has not met proper United States Coast Guard and/or Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission guidelines. Participating vessels and/or individuals found to have participated in the deployment of, assisted in deployment of, and/or acquisition of coordinates of previously deployed FADs from any source will be disqualified from the Boathouse Oyster Bar Ding-A-Ling cobia tournament pending results of a polygraph test. The captain/owner of each registered vessel must sign the FAD Rules Acknowledgment Waiver accompanied with the Official Tournament Entry Form to be eligible to participate in the Boathouse Oyster Bar Ding-A-Ling cobia tournament.

b. Any cobia knowingly or intentionally found, hooked, and/or caught on or near a FAD will not be eligible to be weighed in the Boathouse Oyster Bar Ding-A-Ling cobia tournament. If in the course of traditional cobia sight fishing a cobia on or near a FAD is found, hooked, and/or caught that cobia will not be eligible to be weighed in the Boathouse Ding-A-Ling tournament unless it is determined that there was at no point any knowledge of said FAD. Participating vessels and/or individuals found to have knowingly caught and weighed any cobia on or near a FAD will be disqualified from the Boathouse Oyster Bar Ding-A-Ling cobia tournament, pending results of a polygraph test.